

REMARKS

Claims 4, 10, 12, 13, 15 and 17 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 12, 15 and 17 have been amended to depend from claim 4 or 10.

Claims 4, 10 and 13 are allowed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 12, 15 and 17 depend from claims 4 or 10, and thus these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 4 and 10.

Without acquiescing the merits of the rejections, withdrawal of all the rejections and allowance of claims 4, 10, 12, 13, 15 and 17 is respectfully requested.

In addition, the Examiner is respectfully requested to return a signed and initial copy of PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) submitted with Applicants' information disclosure statement of November 13, 2006.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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